THE PATIENTS VOICE IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE

Sunday’s opening keynote presentation at the Conference will include patients and caregivers sharing their experiences and perspectives on accessing hospice palliative care and how the care impacted their lives. As a special feature, the presentation will include an interview with a palliative care provider suffering from ALS and the importance of receiving palliative care on her quality of life.

A representative from ALS Canada will also be joining us at the session. Dr. Sandy Buchman, Program Advisory Committee Co-Chair of the 2017 Hospice Palliative Care Conference will be a presenter and moderator of this session.

SANDY BUCHMAN MD, CCFP (PC), FCFP

Education Lead, Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care, Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Buchman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto and practices as a palliative care physician providing home based palliative and end of life care.

He practiced comprehensive Family Medicine for many years with a special interest in Primary Cancer Care, Palliative Care, HIV/AIDS and Global Health – including volunteer experiences in South America and Africa.

Dr. Buchman is the Education Lead at the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care, Mount Sinai Hospital, and he was President of The College of Family Physicians of Canada, 2011-2012 and The Ontario College of Family Physicians 2005-2006.
This panel discussion will highlight how the establishment of the Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN), a partnership of community stakeholders, health service providers and health-system planners, is building a coordinated, standardized approach for delivering hospice palliative care services in Ontario. With strong sustainable partnerships, knowledge and the release of various palliative care related reports, there is now greater understanding of the hospice palliative care landscape, where gaps exists and what patients and families desire.

The panelists will highlight OPCN’s work to date both provincially and through the 14 Regional Palliative Care Networks. The panelists will share current pockets of excellence in the field, new approaches and partnerships being implemented to achieve greater integration, access and better health outcomes for patients and families.

**PANEL PARTICIPANTS**

- **MELODY BOYD**, Provincial Clinical Co-Lead of the Ontario Palliative Care Network and Regional Manager for the North Simcoe Muskoka Palliative Care Network
- **GREGG BROWN**, Caregiver
- **LEE FAIRCLOUGH**, Vice President of Quality Improvement at Health Quality Ontario, Member of Executive Oversight, Ontario Palliative Care Network
- **BILL MACLEOD**, CEO, Mississauga Halton LHIN and Co-Chair of the Ontario Palliative Care Network Executive Oversight
- **MICHAEL SHERAR**, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario and Co-Chair of the Ontario Palliative Care Network Executive Oversight
- **SUE VANDERBENT**, CEO of Home Care Ontario, Member of Partnership Advisory Council, Ontario Palliative Care Network
How do we value dignity at the end-of-life? Is it the same for everyone?

There is growing recognition that what makes Canadians sick, is more than just biology or genetics. In fact, it is estimated that up to 60% of what causes us illness, is related to how we live, learn, work and play. These factors, known as the social determinants of health, are often overlooked in our Palliative Care delivery systems. Meanwhile, it is well known that Canada’s marginalized populations, including the homeless and vulnerably housed and communities with mental illness and addictions, suffer from higher morbidity and mortality due to illnesses often stemming from social and societal circumstances. All the while, dying in social isolation, falling through the cracks, with few people and supports around them, and often, with a lack of dignity.

Through a health equity and human rights lens, this keynote address will highlight the unique challenges faced by Canada’s most vulnerable communities when dealing with life-limiting illnesses, will describe innovative approaches to Palliative Care delivery at the micro, meso and macro levels and challenge our thinking around traditional care models. By dissecting the way poverty, housing insecurity, isolation and other social ailments impact the palliative journey in our communities; we may be able to actualize our full potential, flipping conventional approaches on their head, to provide equity for individuals from all walks of life.

In our society, it is clear that we live differently. But, should we really die differently?

DR. NAHEED DOSANI, MD, CCFP(PC), BSC

Palliative Care Physician at the Inner City Health Association (ICHA) and William Osler Health System (WOHS); Lecturer, Department of Family & Community Medicine, Division of Palliative Care, University of Toronto; Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Division of Palliative Care, McMaster University; Palliative Care Regional Medical Lead, Central West LHIN & Central West CCAC; Vice-Chair, Health Providers Against Poverty Ontario
DR. NAHEED DOSANI is a passionate and respected advocate for marginalized and vulnerable populations with palliative needs. He serves as a Palliative Care Physician at the Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) and William Osler Health System (WOHS). He recently completed the Conjoint Palliative Medicine Residency Program at the University of Toronto and prior to that, a residency in inner-city Family Medicine, where he was elected by his peers as Chief Resident of St. Michael’s Hospital’s Family Medicine Residency Program.

After completing his training, Dr. Dosani founded PEACH (Palliative Education And Care for the Homeless), a mobile, street and shelter-based outreach service aimed at meeting the Palliative Care needs of the homeless and vulnerably housed. Through PEACH, he provides Toronto’s most marginalized populations with compassionate care and a dignified approach to their end-of-life journeys.

He was recognized by his peers with the 2015 Early Career Development Award by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. In addition, his efforts have received national and international media attention by the likes of CBC News’ Morning Live and The National, CBC Radio’s World at Six, the Medical Post, Hospital News, The Toronto Star, The Saskatoon Star Phoenix, Global Television, CBC Radio Canada International, CTV News, CityNews, The Canadian Press, USA Today along with a featured CBC Radio Documentary entitled, ‘What’s a Life Worth?’. His compelling TEDx talk, ‘What’s a Life Worth?’, delivered in April 2016 at TEDxStouffville, has received over 2500 views on YouTube and has become the ‘gold standard’ tool to educate and highlight the importance of health equity in Palliative Care.

As both a researcher and educator, Dr. Dosani serves on faculty as Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at McMaster University and as Lecturer in the Department of Family & Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. Meanwhile, supporting community-based Palliative Care development as Palliative Care Regional Medical Lead for Central West LHIN & Central West CCAC and research, as Section Editor for the peer-reviewed, Canadian based and internationally distributed academic journal, Current Oncology.

Committed to addressing the social determinants of health as an advocate, Dr. Dosani integrates his passions as Vice-Chair of Health Providers Against Poverty Ontario, focusing on evidence-based solutions to reducing health disparities.
If you work in the caregiving sector, you know the energy drain on your mind, body and spirit can be daunting at times. Compassion fatigue can set in and it’s pretty easy to lose your sense of humour.

Canadian comic and motivational speaker, Deborah Kimmett (CBC Radio, CBC TV and The Second City) has the perfect prescription for what ails you, in her presentation – *Laughter is the Best Medicine*.

This powerful laugh-out-loud keynote address is chocked full of wit and wisdom and teachable moments. With a long-time interest in palliative care, Deborah delivers compassion and comedy side by side, and guarantees conference participants will walk away re-energized with re-framed perspectives.

Warning: Side effects may include sore ribs and aching jaw.

**DEBORAH KIMMETT**  
Professional Comedienne, Speaker and Author

Whether on the stage or on the page, Deborah Kimmett is one funny lady. This witty and wise woman has been using humour to open minds and hearts for 30 years.

A regular on CBC Radio (The Debaters, DNTO and LOL) and the Winnipeg Comedy Festival she is the author of three books: *That Which Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Funnier*, *Reality is Overrated*, and *Out Running Crazy*.

Deborah has been nominated for her play *Miracle Mother*, for the Governor General Award for best play, as well as, the National Magazine Award for Humour.

She has a decade of experience speaking to medical, health, and palliative and hospice organizations. Deborah is the co-creator of the *Hope for Today Cafe* podcasts that help people who are ill and their caregivers better listen to each other. Deborah has also written, and produced a compassionate care video called “*Walk a Mile in my Backless Gown*”. 